



City of Seattle
Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Connections

Celebrating Programs Through Partnerships

January 2006

Iain Robertson: The Allure of the Japanese Garden

Iain Robertson had long been an active supporter of the Arboretum, but didn't know much about the Japanese Garden.



Iain Robertson

Over the years, however, he became more and more intrigued with the garden, ensconced as it was behind a perimeter fence.

Iain is now an ardent advocate for the Japanese Garden and a six-year member of the Japanese Garden Advisory Council.

"The Japanese Garden is one of Seattle's most important cultural assets and one of the 10 finest Japanese gardens outside Japan in the world," Iain says. "Yet

it is an under-appreciated asset."

Born and raised in Edinburgh, Scotland, Iain is a Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Washington. He started his academic career in the Department of Architecture at the University of Edinburgh.

Iain's chief interest now is in the Garden's design and its unified composition (with the exception of the as-yet-unbuilt Gate House and Pavilion). Preservation of these unique qualities is paramount.

"Some facilities you could leave for years to their own devices, but the Japanese Garden would cease to exist if neglected," Iain says. "The Garden requires continual maintenance if it is going to be preserved for the future."

Iain supports the efforts of the advisory council to help maintain this cultural facility. He stresses the importance of the advisory council having members with a broad range of backgrounds.

Ken's Corner

Looking Back . . . and Ahead

Parks and park issues are in the news a fair bit, and some of the attention is negative in nature. I've come to understand the phenomenon in this way: people are concerned about parks because they care so deeply about them.

I also know that what doesn't typically attract media attention is the work we do daily, weekly and monthly to support and achieve our mission.

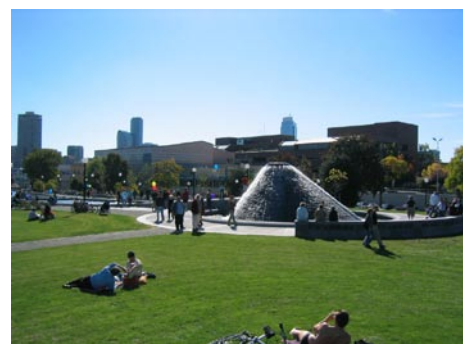
I'm happy to fill you in on the progress we are making. Last year, 2005, was full of accomplishments on that score. Among the highlights:

- **Community Center Levy:** We opened two community centers in '05, one brand new, the International District/Chinatown Community Center and the other completely

renovated, Yesler Community Center. See article in this newsletter on other community center projects.

- **ARC Modernization:** We embarked on the modernization process with the Associated Recreation Council and advisory councils to rethink and revamp this important partnership in a way that makes the most sense for the long-term health of all organizations.

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Jonathan Morley

Annual General Meeting On March 6

Advisory council members and Associated Recreation Council Board members are invited to the ARC's Annual General Meeting on Monday, March 6 in the Harborside Room at McCormick & Schmick's, 1200 Westlake Ave. N. Dinner is at 6 p.m. The meeting will begin at 6:45.

ARC will pay for dinner for the president and treasurer (or their representatives) from each advisory council. Additional dinners may be purchased for \$25. Contact Bill Keller for more information at 206-684-7083 or bill.keller@seattle.gov.

The main topic of the meeting is an update on the ongoing process of modernization of the partnership with Seattle Parks and Recreation.

2005 Opportunity Fund Grant Recipients

2005 was the fourth year of operation for the ARC Advisory Council Opportunity Fund. This grant fund was established to allow advisory councils and ARC to donate money and/or request funds for programs and projects. Donations to the fund and grant requests are accepted through the middle of November of each calendar year. Grant requests are evaluated by an Opportunity Fund Committee elected each year at the ARC Annual General Meeting, and grants are awarded in December.

Fifteen advisory councils made contributions totaling more than \$90,000 to the 2005 Opportunity Fund. Eighteen grant requests were received in 2005, and 15 of these requests were either fully or partially funded. A total amount of \$90,817 was awarded to support advisory council programs and projects. Following is a summary of the 2005 grant awards:

- 1. Carkeek Park Advisory Council** - \$5,000 to support the Homewaters Mapping Project to engage children in discovering their neighborhood through making maps.
- 2. Recreation Technology Coalition (RecTec)** - \$7,500 to provide centralized technological and grant writing support for eight community centers.
- 3. Japanese Gardens Advisory Council** - \$6,500 to assist the launching of "Mondays in the Garden," which will provide programming opportunities at the Garden on Mondays in the spring and summer—on a day the Garden is normally closed.
- 4. Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center Advisory Council** - \$5,000 to support a pilot program entitled the "African American Masters Commissioning Project" to provide training and mentorship from accomplished professional dancers to youth.
- 5. Delridge Advisory Council** - \$7,500 to fund additional programming such as dance and computer skills to benefit youth and seniors.
- 6. Discovery Park Advisory Council** - \$8,000 to support the creation of a copy of The Archaeology of West Point Kit developed by the Burke Museum. This kit is a hands-on educational resource for children and adult learners.
- 7. Garfield Advisory Council** - \$5,000 to provide technical and instructional services for youth in a computer lab environment.
- 8. Magnuson Park Advisory Council** - \$4,800 to purchase a gym scoreboard to allow for expanded programming of the gym.
- 9. Ravenna-Eckstein Advisory Council** - \$2,500 for a teen program aide to assist the Teen Development Leader in the after-school drop-in teen program.
- 10. High Point Advisory Council** - \$9,187 to support

Guiding Academic Motivation for Excellence, a new program designed to assist teens in improving academic performance and to teach the importance of post-high school education.

- 11. South Park Advisory Council** - \$8,000 to support two programs: the Teen Emergency Plan, a program designed to establish emergency relief information for the neighborhood; and a program to provide learning opportunities for pre-school children.
- 12. Van Asselt Advisory Council** - \$2,200 to support a new storytelling program for middle and high school teens.
- 13. Yesler Advisory Council** - \$8,630 to support programming for youth ages 5 to 12 in the summer playground program.
- 14. Rainier Advisory Council** - \$5,000 to fund a computer lab staff monitor to ensure that new computers and software are effectively managed and updated.
- 15. Loyal Heights Advisory Council** - \$6,000 to upgrade kitchen appliances and equipment.

The Opportunity Fund program gives advisory councils a constructive way to support each other and to promote quality recreation programming throughout the advisory council system. Once again in 2005, advisory councils displayed their strong commitment to each other and to the enrichment of the system through their support of this program.

I'd like to thank the 2005 Opportunity Fund Committee for their hard work and thoughtfulness in considering the grant requests and awarding the 2005 grants.

— Anna Martin, ARC Board President

John C. Little Spirit Award

Longtime Parks employee Tom Ostrom was selected as the 2005 recipient of the John C. Little Spirit Award. The award was presented at the Jan. 12 meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners.

In addition to his countless honors and volunteer positions, John C. Little served the community as a member of the Seattle Board of Park Commissioners from 1990 to 1997, and was tireless advocate for youth. The award was created in his honor to recognize Seattle Parks and Recreation staff who mentor youth; provide leadership in the community; make a difference in young lives; and go above and beyond the call of duty.

Tom fit these criteria to a T. He has been a strong and highly effective advocate for teens with the department and community, mentored at-risk teens, and trained many young staff members who eventually became recreation coordinators or assistant coordinators.



Tom Ostrom (in front of map) and friends from Parks.



Mercer Community Learning Center

Community Learning Centers & Out-of-School-Time Programs

By Donna Hudson

The simple goal of Seattle Parks and Recreation's programs for kids when they're not in school is to combine fun with academic learning.

In 2004, Seattle voters renewed funding for the Family and Education Levy. Mayor Nickels asked Seattle Parks and Recreation to lead the implementation planning for programs for middle school students and align Levy programs with a set of academic outcomes as measured by the Washington Assessment of Student Learning. The planning included Middle School Support Programs, Community Learning Centers (CLCs), and Out-of-School-Time (OST) Programs.

Parks is also one of the providers of CLC/OST programs with CLC sites at Denny, Mercer, and McClure middle schools. The Parks CLC/OST programs include a balance of recreation, leisure time, and arts programs, all relevant to the academic skills students learn during the regular school day. Examples of these activities are cooking, robotics, homework club, martial arts, cheerleading, bowling, jazz, sports, clogging, aerobics training, visual art, and pottery.

To meet the new requirements of the Levy, we've made many program changes, particularly new curriculum, new staff expectations, and new programs. Parks has partnered with the Associated Recreation Council (ARC) for the funding of professional development, curriculum development, resource development, assessment, and data analysis. ARC has made a significant contribution to building the department's capacity to deliver academic results.

Ken's Corner

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- **Cal Anderson Park:** In September, we dedicated the newly renovated Cal Anderson Park. If you haven't already done so, I invite you to visit the park and the beautiful lid on the reservoir, fountains, pathways, play area and resurfaced Bobby Morris Playfield.
- **Mt. Baker Rowing & Sailing Center Fundraising:** The advisory council has raised an amazing \$2.1 million through grants, corporate and government contributions, and individual donors for this \$2.5 million improvement project. We expect to begin construction in April.
- **Pyramid Project:** Installation of the new CLASS software at most of our community centers enabled us to increase the efficiency of invoicing, tracking attendance and revenues, and registering customers for programs. We also entered the brave new world of online registration for classes.
- **Youth Basketball:** We served 3,245 youth participants in our youth basketball leagues and another 874 in our instructional program.

This year, we will be doing more of the same, continuing to refine modernization, re-opening the Aquarium, and finishing more community centers and dozens of projects funded by the Pro Parks Levy.

The year will culminate with our hosting of the National Recreation and Parks Association national convention in October. The annual convention will bring about 10,000 park and recreation professionals to Seattle.

Happy New Year to you and your families!

— Ken Bounds, Superintendent

Changes to "Late Night"

Here's an update on the Late Night Recreation Program and the latest changes to times and locations.

In 2005, we offered Late Night at seven sites on Friday and Saturday nights from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. In 2006, the Mayor and City Council increased the budget for Late Night so that we now operate from 7 p.m. to midnight at seven sites on Friday and eight sites on Saturday.

The Friday night sites are: Rainier, Rainier Beach, Southwest Teen Center, High Point, Garfield Teen Life Center, Meadowbrook Teen Center and Bitter Lake. The Saturday night sites are: Rainier, Rainier Beach, Asa Mercer School, Southwest Teen Center, Delridge, Garfield Teen Life Center, Meadowbrook Teen Center and Bitter Lake.

In addition, we held a staff retreat on Late Night to establish program targets for 2006 and establish a statement of purpose for the program.

Credits

Anna Martin, ARC Board President; Bill Keller, ARC Executive Director; David Takami, Editor; Margarite Hargrave, Designer. For information or comments please call or e-mail David Takami at 206-684-8020, david.takami@seattle.gov

Community Center Levy Update

As staff and patrons of renovated or new community centers at High Point, International District/Chinatown, Jefferson, Southwest, Yesler and Magnuson Park will tell you, the improvements funded by the 1999 Community Center Levy (and 2000 Pro Parks Levy) have made a tremendous difference in the quantity and quality of program offerings and the availability of center spaces for community events and meetings.

At Southwest Community Center, for instance, since the re-opening in May 2005, attendance at our youth programs has reached new highs. The child care program began September 2004 and finished the '05 year with 28 students in the after-school program, and 22 before school.

Here is a quick progress report of all 11 community center projects.

Completed projects (in the order completed):

Magnuson – January 2004

High Point – March 2004

Jefferson – September 2004

International District/Chinatown – September 2004

Yesler – February 2005

Southwest – May 2005

Under construction

Northgate (together with Library branch and park) – estimated completion date for this new center is July 2006.

Nearing construction

Van Asselt – estimated completion date of this renovated center is fall 2006. Programs and staff have been relocated to other nearby community centers.

Montlake – construction is expected to begin on this renovation project in early 2006.

Laurelhurst – construction of this major renovation is expected to begin in early 2006.

Planning

Belltown – In December we received word of (state) funding that will enable us to move forward with our partner agency the Low-Income Housing Institute on selecting a site that will be jointly developed into low-income housing and a new community center.

For more information about the Community Center Levy Program, please visit <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/Centers/com-centlevyprog99.htm> or call 206-733-9188. For more information about the Pro Parks Levy (funding the Montlake and Laurelhurst projects), please visit <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/> or call 206-233-7929.



Southwest Community Center

Special Events

Feb. 10

Making Valentine's Day Cards, Meadowbrook Community Center, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. 684-7522.

Valentine's Day Party, Ravenna-Eckstein Community Center, 7 to 8:30 p.m. 684-7534.

Valentine's Day Sock Hop, Southwest Community Center, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. 684-7438. For elementary-age kids and families.

Feb. 11

Pancake Breakfast, Rainier Beach Community Center, 9 a.m. to noon. 386-1925.

Ice Cream Social, Yesler Community Center, 1 to 3 p.m. 386-1245.

Feb. 12

Community Pancake Breakfast, Hiawatha Community Center, 8 a.m. to noon. 684-7441.

Feb. 22

Showtime at Magnuson—live entertainment for kids, Magnuson Community Center, 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. 684-7026

Feb. 25

Early Education Fair, Queen Anne Community Center, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., 386-4240.

Feb. 26

Community Pancake Breakfast, Bitter Lake Community Center, 9 a.m. to noon. 684—7524.

March 5

Pancake Breakfast, Loyal Heights Community Center, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 684-4052.

Associated Recreation Council
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